

January 30, 1973

the people, perhaps they should have something to say about how the body would be elected. I don't know whether I'll vote for partisan legislature or to keep it the way that it is but on the issue of submitting it to the vote of the people, I'm in favor of that being done. So I think that I'll just ride out the storm which is going to be engendered when a vote is taken on Senator Skarda's motion to indefinitely postpone. Right now, I don't have a strong feeling one way or the other. My comments were offered in case somebody was on the fence and they were pushing one way or the other.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Stromer. Still speaking on Senator Skarda's motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR STROMER: Mr. President, fellow members, of course, I would oppose the motion made by Senator Skarda to indefinitely postpone. Before I speak to that, I would like to answer one question, as I understand the present law for Senator Chambers. That is, it is my understanding as an independent you still could file as a petition candidate, so that it would not eliminate independents. And I think that if we do indefinitely postpone LB 9 what we are saying is that we do not want the people of the state of Nebraska to have the choice as to whether they want this to be a partisan or nonpartisan legislature.

SPEAKER: Senator Proud, did you wish to be recognized? Speaking on Senator Skarda's motion.

SENATOR PROUD: I listened intently to all these speeches and particularly to Senator Burbach's remarks, and I would just like to briefly rephrase his remarks, my good friend, Senator Jules Burbach, and he is my good friend. First of all I would suggest to him that he immediately go down and register as an independent because this is his belief. He doesn't believe in the parties. He says I vote my conscience and I'm sure he does. Well, if you analyze that a little bit what does this mean about our Congress. They are all elected on a party system. That must mean that they don't vote their conscience because they are elected on a party system. Maybe, he's right but I don't think so. Lastly, I think Senator Burbach's excellent speech could be summed up in one sentence and I don't blame him for this. I think he is afraid of a vote of the people.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. Chairman and fellow members, I oppose this resolution or this piece of legislation. First, if we are going to go on a partisan basis, the first thing that a candidate or anyone here as a candidate, the first thing you do is you try to find the millionaires in the district and see how much money you could raise. As it is now, we are on our own. We go out and see the people and we're lay people and I'm not so sure whether our partisan system is working too well. It takes a lot of money. I suppose--I don't know how much but I know that in some areas it would take \$500 or a \$1,000 or \$1,000,000 to even run for the House of Representatives and the first thing you do is start cultivating the rich people, that is those that make the big donations and I don't like to see that in this body. We cultivate the lay people. We go out to see them door to door. We try to represent them. I don't represent my own opinions. I try to represent what my people want (inaudible).

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of Senator Skarda's motion. Senator Skarda, do you care to close on your motion to indefinitely postpone. The question is--the question is shall LB 9 be indefinitely postponed. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. Senator Stromer for what purpose do you rise?